

## ***FISH & WILD COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** April 10, 2014

**Agenda Item:** Exotic Wildlife Classification for Importation/Possession

**Division:** Enforcement

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

### **Background**

To be legally imported into Montana, exotic wildlife must be classified. A review committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee—which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife makes recommendations to the Commission to classify exotic wildlife either as noncontrolled, controlled, or prohibited. Recommendations are based on:

- A. the environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. the risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. the ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The Commission may, after appropriate public input, adopt by rule a list of noncontrolled, controlled, and prohibited exotic wildlife. If approved, the proposed rule changes will be published for public comment.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The Commission can decide not to propose the recommendations by the Classification Review Committee.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

The Classification Review Committee recommends that the F&W Commission propose rules to allow for the following classification of exotic wildlife:

**Controlled**—The following exotic wildlife may be possessed in Montana with only with a Controlled Species permit from FWP:

1. *Coturnix spp.*-several species of small quail including the Japanese Quail and Harlequin Quail
2. *Macropus robustus*-Wallaroo

**Prohibited**—The importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited.

1. *Trachemys scripta elegans*-Red Eared Slider (pond turtle)
2. *Ovis ammon*-Argali Sheep
3. *Ovis aries vignei*-Transcaspian Urial Sheep
4. *Callipepla californica*-California Quail
5. *Callipepla gambelii*-Gambel's Quail

### **Proposed Motion**

I move that the Commission propose amendments to the classification of exotic species Administrative Rules of Montana as recommended by the classification review committee.